

Message Text

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64

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

C/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4960

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC,PARM,UR,US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

REF: A. MOSCOW 17336

B. STATE 246163

1. SOVIET MFA (TEREKHOV OF THE TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION) DELIVERED ITS FORMAL REPLY ON NOVEMBER 29 TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO PRECEDE THE FEBRUARY CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN GENEVA (REFTELS).

2. THE SOVIET REPLY WELCOMES PRIOR CONSULTATIONS BUT ASKS THAT THEY BE HELD IN MOSCOW INSTEAD OF WASHINGTON AND PROPOSES JANUARY 6-7 INSTEAD OF JANUARY 16-17. FULL TEXT OF THE SOVIET NON-PAPER FOLLOWS (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

3. BEGIN QUOTE: THE SOVIET SIDE HAS EXAMINED THE
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PROPOSAL OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE

HOLDING OF BILATERAL SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW AND CONSIDERS THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL FOR BOTH SIDES. WE ALSO AGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL OF THE AMERICAN SIDE FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE CONSULTATIONS. CONCERNING THE PLACE FOR HOLDING THE CONSULTATIONS, THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD PREFER MOSCOW, BECAUSE TO SEND A GROUP OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS ON QUESTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN LAW TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY 1975 WOULD CAUSE US CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING THE CONSULTATIONS AT A SOMEWHAT EARLIER TIME, SAY JANUARY 6-7, IN ORDER THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO UTILIZE THE RESULTS OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN THE COURSE OF LONGER PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE AND, IN PART, IN PREPARATORY CONTACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD THE SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULTATION ON QUESTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN LAW IN MOSCOW IN THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF JANUARY AT A TIME CONVENIENT FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE, AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THIS SUGGESTION WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE. END QUOTE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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